

REMARKS:

Claims 21-25 and 27-29 remain in the application. Claims 27-29 have been allowed.

The applicant respectfully requests entrance of the amendments presented herein for the purpose of placing the application in condition for allowance, or in the alternative, for placing the application in better form for appeal should such become necessary.

Independent Claim 21 has been amended to include distinguishing aspects of the staking process used to fix the wiper element within the bottom channel. The terminology used is consistent with the specification, and is nearly word-for-word identical to the terms used in Claim 1 of the parent application, now U.S. Patent No. 6,766,553.

These amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance and were not earlier presented because only the most recent Office Action brought the patentability issues into sharp focus. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 21, as amended, is now presented in condition for allowance.

Claims 22 and 23 depend from Claim 21, and therefore are believed to also be in condition for allowance.

Prior dependent Claim 26 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of base Claim 24. Accordingly, the applicant has amended Claim 24 to include all of the limitations of prior dependent Claim 26. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 24, as amended, is now presented in condition for allowance. Claim 25 depends from Claim 24 and is likewise believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 27-29 have been allowed.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claim amendments presented herein now place all of the remaining claims in condition for allowance. Entrance of these amendments is respectfully solicited.

Appln. No.: 10/797,336
Response to Office Action dated 2/24/2006

It is believed that this application now is in condition for allowance. Further and favorable action is requested.

The Patent Office is authorized to charge or refund any fee deficiency or excess to Deposit Account No. 04-1061.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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